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(Proceedings at 11:47 a.m. All defendants present in courtroom. Jury not present.)

THE COURT: I believe counsel have been provided with copies of the notes that we received this morning from the jury.

I have a proposal that I would like to make before I hear from counsel.

The first note, actually the first two, came out at the same time, a little after 10:00. The jury reports, quote: "The jury is deadlocked on two counts as they relate to an individual defendant. Both sides' reasoned views at this point are firm.

Can we proceed past these counts in reaching our verdict?"

And then at about the same time, the jury asks, quote:
"Can the jury review testimony of Natasha Wyche from October 1
and William Montgomery's testimony, afternoon of October 7th?"

And then more recently, just a few minutes ago, the jury sent out the following note, quote: "Can a defendant be implicated and found guilty for the drug quantities that were possessed and distributed by a conspiracy prior to his entry?"

The first note reporting the deadlock is ambiguous, of course. It's not clear whether the jury has, in the opinion of the foreperson or the author of the note, who I believe is the foreperson, substantially reached a verdict as to many or most other counts and is deadlocked on only these two as to a single defendant.

You'll recall that I instructed the jury that they were

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free to consider any counts in any orders, in any order that they chose. So I don't think it should be read to suggest that they've been going through in chronological, numerical order and have not moved past some count. But that could be an interpretation. But they ask whether they can proceed past these counts in reaching our verdict. That's ambiguous.

Clearly, the issue of reviewing testimony is always problematic. While Ms. Zajac does have realtime reporting, I haven't conferred with her yet to see what will be involved in trying to locate that testimony. Obviously, I don't think it's something that any of us ever want to do, to sit here in the courtroom and have either the reporter or me or anybody read testimony back to the jury.

There is some law that suggests that a flat out no is not always appropriate. But my inclination would be to suggest to the jury that the testimony is not readily available.

It seems to me the answer to the question about drug quantities is easy. And that is that a defendant cannot reasonably foresee a possession or distribution of narcotics before he becomes a member of the conspiracy. And so it seems to me the answer to that question is a straight no.

Here's my proposal. My suspicion, and I'll hear from counsel, given the complexity of the verdict sheet and the multitude of counts, defendants, and some issues relating to drug quantity and characterizations of murder, I would propose, if

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counsel all agree, that I send in a note and ask the foreperson to complete one of the jury verdict forms as much as he can based on unanimous decisions of the jury and send out the verdict form.

I will take a look at the verdict form and, depending on what I see, I will do one or more of several things.

What I would propose to do is to tell counsel and your clients on what counts and/or issues the jury has not been able yet to reach unanimous decision. And if we are all agreed to take a partial verdict in light of that information, then we can consider whether we want to do that.

Obviously, that's just one proposal. Some of you may have competing or alternative proposals. And it may be that the Court should simply answer the jury's questions and proceed.

So I'm open to hearing all of you. Let me start with the government. Mr. Harding. What's your sense of it?

MR. HARDING: Judge, first let me say that I don't think the government has a problem with your proposed answer on the drug quantity issue, even though I believe there is case law suggesting that a defendant can be held liable for drugs that were transacted before he or she entered the conspiracy. I think it would require evidence that the defendant involved was told or otherwise got information about the prior transactions. And since I'm not, I can't think of such evidence in this case, I can't say that the government has a problem with the instruction you propose.

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THE COURT: I think your refinement of what I suggested is probably absolutely correct.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ HARDING: I must say that the proposal with respect to the, what amounts to a partial verdict form --

THE COURT: I might say, by the way -- I'm sorry to interrupt, Mr. Harding -- I'm not sure how to assess this or what weight to give it. But this is the first day during deliberations, Ms. Arrington, correct me if I'm wrong, it's now 5 of 12. The jury has not sent out their menu selections. Oh, they did. They just did. Okay.

All right. Go ahead, Mr. Harding. I'm sorry.

MR. HARDING: We know we're here at least until 2:00 this afternoon.

THE COURT: Well, maybe, maybe not. I might say, the menu selections have not been transmitted to the restaurant.

MR. HARDING: I confess that in spite of my advanced age, Your Honor, I haven't had a case where the Court reviewed the verdict sheet and became aware of what the verdict was on certain counts before deciding whether or not to take a partial verdict. And I'm a little troubled by that. I just don't know whether that, I don't know whether that's a problem.

THE COURT: Well, I absolutely agree with you. It certainly is not a problem if everybody agrees I should do it.

And I don't think I would do it if there's any objection. So I'm with you on that. I certainly have never, I'm not aware of it

ever happening. And I wouldn't, I don't think I would do it over objection.

MR. HARDING: Okay. Well, if no one objects, then the government does not object to that procedure.

I think the Court may be aware of the fact that a lot of these determinations aren't going to be necessary.

THE COURT: Exactly.

MR. HARDING: Yes.

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THE COURT: Exactly. The jury won't know that.

MR. HARDING: Right.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. HARDING: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Harding. Ms. Rhodes, good morning and good to see you.

MS. RHODES: Good morning, Your Honor. Good to see you. Our position, just going in order, on number one would be that the Court would instruct the jury that they can proceed as they requested or they can proceed as they indicated past those counts in reaching a verdict.

As to number two, we would ask, I think the testimony is available because I know that both those witnesses' testimonies were requested. In light of the specificity of their request and the length of time they've been deliberating and the length of time the trial has taken, so that we're now two months after those two dates, essentially, of testimony, I think it's

not an unreasonable request, and I would ask the Court provide that testimony to the jury.

As to number three --

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THE COURT: You understand -- I'm sorry to interrupt. But you understand the Court will not send in a transcript. If we are to, if we are to provide that testimony to the jury, it will involve us sitting here and reading the testimony to the jury. There's no transcript going into the jury room.

MS. RHODES: Okay. Well, I don't think that Ms. Wyche's was terribly belong. Montgomery, I don't recall how long his afternoon testimony was that day.

THE COURT: He was on the stand all, all afternoon.

MS. RHODES: Okay. Well, perhaps they could specify. In any event, Ms. Wyche's, we would ask, we would still ask that both of them be read to the jury.

THE COURT: Okay. I just want you to understand what this involves.

MS. RHODES: What that would entail. All right. As to number three, we would agree with the Court's proposed response to that. In terms of the completion of the verdict form, we would be opposed to that in lieu of answering these questions.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, I guess I don't need to hear from other counsel, but I will.

MR. MARTIN: I don't really know how I feel about this.

I mean, I agree with Mr. Harding. I did have it happen once, 30

years ago in Texas. I didn't like it then.

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THE COURT: Well, I'm not going to do it if they do it in Texas.

MR. MARTIN: And I was a prosecutor then and I didn't like it. Maybe it was more than 30 years ago. I hate to admit that, but it was. But it was before I was an assistant here. I was with DOJ.

That makes me very uncomfortable. I don't think I could agree to that, Your Honor.

You said you agreed with Mr. Harding, subject to his refinement, the issue about if there was evidence of, but I don't think there is any evidence here, so I don't think it would be a appropriate instruction. I think your first --

THE COURT: No. And Mr. Harding agrees.

MR. MARTIN: Right. So the answer should be no.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. MARTIN: And I don't, these jurors took a lot of notes. I don't think we need to sit here and have us listen to -- I hate to disagree with Ms. Rhodes, but I don't particularly want to sit here and listen and I don't think it serves any purpose to listen to the partial testimony of the witnesses. You know, if you're going to do it, maybe you should listen to all of it, and nobody wants to do that. I don't think, they don't want to do that.

So I would oppose that, Your Honor. I think you should

just tell them they have to rely on their notes and their memory.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: For the record, Mr. Martin, exactly what is your response to the Court's proposal to have them send out a verdict sheet?

MR. MARTIN: That's what I was talking about, that happening, Your Honor. I'm opposed to that.

THE COURT: Okay. You're opposed to that.

MR. CROWE: Good morning, Your Honor. On behalf of Mr. Martin, I believe we are also, we are also opposed to a partial verdict sheet coming out.

With respect to the jury being deadlocked, I agree that the note is certainly ambiguous and I think they should simply be told that they can consider counts in any order they want to and without indicating that — to my mind, this note doesn't even necessarily indicate that the deadlock is final. It sounds like it's pretty close to it, but I'm not quite sure they're there.

In terms of reviewing the testimony, I think they're clearly required to do it. And certainly can't disagree with the position everybody else has taken on the testimony of Natasha Wyche and William Montgomery.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. KURLAND: Good morning still, Your Honor. With regard to the reviewing the testimony, I would propose that the

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Court, you know, explain to them, you know, if you can rely on your notes, fine. But if not, if you still feel it's necessary, then, you know.

THE COURT: That's what I would do. What I would do, if testimony is going to be read back, what I would do is I would say something to the effect of, we'll order your lunch and we will take steps to see if we can't prepare, obtain a transcript. But you should understand, I mean, I would tell them what I just said to Ms. Rhodes, that a transcript will not be made an exhibit and send into the jury room. What that will entail is all of us sitting here in the courtroom and the testimony being read, word for word, over again. And so they may want to think about it over lunch, either to narrow their request or reconsider their request.

So, yeah, they will know before we do it what it's going to entail.

MR. KURLAND: Also, is that afternoon, is there any cross examination of Montgomery on that?

THE COURT: I have no idea whatsoever. I mean, that's part of the problem. As somebody suggested, I think it was Mr. Martin, you have to read the whole thing. And frankly, if somebody were to say, no, Judge, we don't want a portion of a witness' testimony read, we want the entire thing, of course, we can't even cross that bridge until Ms. Zajac first identifies the -- they did give us the time period.

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MR. KURLAND: Again, I haven't consulted with Mr.

Coburn on this. But if any of Montgomery's testimony is going to be read back, it would be our position that it include the cross examination. And I know for a fact that Montgomery's entirely transcript has been, has been, has been prepared and provided, I think, to all parties.

The second thing, Your Honor, is obviously until those other issues are resolved, the deadlock issue obviously doesn't, it doesn't really, it isn't really ripe.

As a general matter, I don't have a problem with returning a partial verdict if that also includes not, not the procedure that the Court outlined, but if they want to come back with counts they have resolved. That would also include, it would be our position that that would include not just counts that they have deliberated on and reached a unanimous verdict, but if they are hung on some counts I think they should be able to return a partial verdict on the hung counts and those are off the table now.

THE COURT: You can't return a verdict on a hung count.

MR. KURLAND: Well, no. But they could come back and say we're hung, and then if the Court --

THE COURT: No. I'm going to give a modified Allen if we're going to deal with hung counts and all that.

Okay. Anything else, Mr. Kurland?

MR. KURLAND: No. Thank you.

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THE COURT: Let me take one more shot at it, so to speak. I really appreciate and profoundly respect counsel's skepticism, cynicism, whatever you want to call it, when some wacky judge makes a proposal that nobody's ever heard of or only heard of 30 or 40 years ago in Texas. But let me just elide the proposal a little bit.

As you all well know, this verdict sheet is something of a monster. It's 18 pages. It's got all these special findings, the vast majority of which are irrelevant in a practical sense, certainly not irrelevant in a legal sense.

But as we saw in that early question regarding premeditation, second degree felony murder, and it did occur to me, by the way, as I would if I were trying a state murder case, to say to the jury, By the way, if you find the defendant guilty of premeditated murder, you don't have to consider second degree murder. I mean, that's the way I always instructed a jury.

I didn't do that here. It would have turned the verdict sheet, I mean, it would have turned my instructions into a 150 page rather than a 128 page essay.

My point simply is that, while I appreciate your concern, my proposal is, I think, utterly non-prejudicial to everybody. What I propose to do on the suspicion that the jury is hung up over some subsidiary issues and, certainly, this last question strongly suggests that. If they're back there struggling over 500 kilograms or less versus, you know, I don't

think any of us want them to spend time doing that.

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If they're struggling over drug quantities, obviously, it seems to be obvious, that they've reached a guilty verdict on some, some stuff because they wouldn't be talking about drug quantities if they had found no conspiracy or no conspiracy charged in the indictment.

So it's difficult for me to see, not because I'm the author of the proposal, but it's difficult for me to see what is to be lost or gained by not taking this intermediate step to permit the Court to take a look at the verdict sheet.

Suppose, hypothetically, they've reached a verdict, guilty or not guilty, on everything except the Wyche murders. Do we really want to sit here? And I say this with all respect to the family of the Wyche brothers. Obviously, victim's families want a final determination, as we all do. But there are practical realities that I think come into play in any case.

So if they're sitting back there having decided 90 to 95% of this very complex case with extraordinarily overlapping charges, I'm not sure why you wouldn't want at least to take the opportunity for the Court to inform itself whether they're 90% finished or only 30% finished. What's to be lost?

If they are 30% finished, then I'm going to do all the things that counsel have asked me to do. I'm going to give instructions, maybe read testimony, answer their questions, bring in lunch. But if they send out a verdict sheet that's 90%

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complete and they're hung up on one defendant, one or two counts, or one or two drug quantities, I don't think counsel want to stay here and come back next week, have the jury try to work that out.

So I'm not trying to coerce anybody. I hope the record doesn't reflect that. I'm really not. And I'm happy to do whatever mature, professional counsel believe is most appropriate. But I just want to take this opportunity to make sure you understand that what I'm proposing is rooted in practical reality. And I don't want to prejudice anybody.

I don't know if they've reached three guilty verdicts and 27 not guilty's or 27 guilty's and three not guilty's. I don't know what it is. All I'm saying is, why don't we take this opportunity after five days of deliberation, or four and a half days of deliberation, in light of these somewhat ambiguous notes, to decide, based on the information they give us, what we do next, rather than just proceed as if we don't have any information from the jury? That's all.

So with that, we'll start in reverse order, since Mr. -- no. No. Mr. Coburn, it's very good. You approached the lectern and we'll start with you and then we'll come back clockwise and end the government.

MR. COBURN: Very kind of Your Honor. I didn't mean to butt in front of anybody.

THE COURT: No.

MR. COBURN: Just on the first -- is it okay for me to

talk with the door open, Your Honor?

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THE COURT: Yes. The other door is closed.

MR. COBURN: Okay. Just with respect to the first point that Your Honor made, just very briefly. I think Your Honor may actually have made that point to them, about premeditated murder versus second degree murder, in response to an earlier note.

THE COURT: Oh, I did, in my supplemental instruction. Absolutely.

MR. COBURN: On the bigger point that Your Honor is making, I think there's, first of all, I think there's force in what Your Honor is saying. And I agree with the general proposition that just because it's not maybe been done before in our experience, it shouldn't be done here.

THE COURT: And just so I'm clear, I'm not talking about taking a partial verdict. I'm talking about finding out whether there is one.

MR. COBURN: I hear Your Honor on that absolutely. My, and just to kind of reason this through to whatever limited extent I'm able to at this moment, I was just trying to do a little bit of kind of quick and dirty research on this on the computer with really no success at all. But I know that there's this doctrine. And I think it was part of this Court's instructions, it's always part of the Federal Court instructions in DC, to the effect that the jury is always told in every single

case, if you're having trouble with respect to a count, don't ever tell me what the split is.

THE COURT: I did. I did.

MR. COBURN: And I guess my question, and it really is just a question, is whether something, the reason for that concern, as I understand it, relates to this question of jury coercion.

THE COURT: Right.

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MR. COBURN: I mean, is there an analogous concern with, you know, the Court looking at a verdict form in order to see how many counts they're deadlocked on versus how many counts is there a verdict on? To the extent there is a coercion concern in the first instance, is there some analogous coercion concern in the second?

THE COURT: I don't think so. But I'm open to being persuaded that there is. And I appreciate your raising the issue. Clearly, I would not ask, and if ultimately we agree with my proposal, or some modification thereof, I'm not going to ask for what the vote is on a count that you haven't reached a unanimous decision on. What I would ask them for, as clearly as I can, is to complete the verdict sheet only as to those counts you have reached a unanimous verdict.

And what I would anticipate getting from the jury is a verdict sheet that shows some guilty's, it would seem, in light of the drug quantity question, and perhaps some not guilty's. So

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I would only be asking for a report of what you're unanimous on.

Now, is there a potential for coercion, depending on what we do after we get that information? I don't think so but certainly if there are those who are concerned about that, sure. But I don't really see how.

As I say, and I just laid out a paradigm, they're 30% finished, however you calculate 30% on a verdict sheet like this, or they're 75% or 80% finished. My suspicion is that if they're 80% finished, most of you are going to say, Judge, let's take a partial verdict. Most of you, if not all of you.

If there are only 30% finished, there's not going to be a partial verdict. If they're only 30% finished, subject to hearing from counsel, I wouldn't even tell you what counts they've reached a unanimous verdict on. I would simply bring them back out, I would answer the questions. We would deal with reading testimony. We'd send in lunch. And we'd go forward.

I'm just trying to make life more palatable for everybody. But I may not be, my proposal may not achieve that.

And if it doesn't, you know, we'll proceed in a more traditional manner.

MR. COBURN: If Your Honor took -- and this may not be, it may not be possible to answer this question in the abstract without knowing the percentages -- but if Your Honor took a partial verdict and they returned verdicts on a certain percentage of counts and there were certain other counts left

over, would there then be some further discussion about whether there should be an Allen charge on the remaining?

THE COURT: Absolutely. Absolutely. And I would not take a partial verdict before giving an Allen charge.

MR. COBURN: The Allen charge would be first?

THE COURT: Right. Right.

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MR. COBURN: I'll discuss it further with Mr. Kurland.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Crowe, Mr. Pyne? Anything that's happened or been said in the last ten minutes prompt you to add anything or --

MR. CROWE: Your Honor, I think our position remains the same.

THE COURT: Remains the same? Mr. Martin?

MR. MARTIN: Your Honor, Mr. Crowe and I have discussed it and I think we remain the same as well.

THE COURT: All right. Ms. Rhodes?

MS. RHODES: My position has changed a little bit only in that it's stronger. My concern is that taking this, that there will be, I wouldn't even call it jury coercion. But there would be some message sent to them that we're concerned about how long this is taking, we want to see what you have, how far along you are, and that that would make them feel that maybe they have to move faster.

The second point is that I think that given, especially given these notes about the split on a couple of counts, my

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concern would be that they would feel less comfortable continuing to deliberate on some of the counts that they may be undecided on right now and feel like they need to make a decision; that also possibly they would ultimately, might be a compromise verdict in some sense of overall, would be, would be compromised by taking part of it now. In other words, people down the road night say, Well, I wasn't going to go with that, but I will go with it, but I can't now, because you wouldn't let me back away from what I wanted my position in this other matter regarding the same defendant, or something like that.

So I think how, they've been told they're deliberating on the whole verdict sheet as a whole and they're not to give us any information on it as they go along. And they've done their deliberations based on that information. So to change that midstream, I think, might confound how some of them have been proceeding in terms of the process.

Also, I think that since they have the sheet, they've had the sheet the whole time, they certainly are using it as a guide. They're certainly using it to, they've probably filled it out, I'm not sure that we need to, that our getting that is going to speed things up.

I think this is a situation where the defendants' interests are certainly not necessarily in speeding things up at all or in making things easier in terms of the process.

THE COURT: Okay. That's certainly a fair comment.

All right. Mr. Harding?

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MR. HARDING: Judge, I guess if defense counsel aren't going to agree to it, the Court isn't going to consider --

THE COURT: Absolutely.

MR. HARDING: -- a partial verdict. And so the government would certainly not be in support of a partial verdict unless all defense counsel agreed to it. So I guess we agree with defense counsel.

I do want to say one thing about the transcripts issue, Your Honor. I'm very worried about that. Actually, I don't recall ever in federal court having the court allow the jury to see the, or to hear even the transcripts read back to them. I know we have the transcripts in this case. And maybe that's a different circumstance.

But I do think that even if they focused what their concern is, we're going to have a situation where defense counsel are going to want any conceivably relevant section of their cross examinations and then the redirect and then the recrosses also read to the jury. And issues of credibility will then come up. And the defense attorneys will want the sections where they allegedly impeached the witness to be read, also.

THE COURT: You're absolutely right. In fact, as I sit here listening to you, Mr. Harding, and really sort of reviewing it in my mind, I'm not even sure we could get it done today. In other words, what I mean is, if we actually had the physical

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transcripts here, counsel, including yourself and Mr. Hanlon, would be entitled to review the entire testimony of that witness, direct and cross, for the purpose of making a judgment about, if the jury's going to hear this, then we want them to hear this, too. And I would be constrained to acquiesce in that.

And so while the jury may say, We only want to hear the afternoon of October 1st, just because the jury narrows it in that way doesn't mean counsel, including the government counsel, aren't entitled to do an assessment of what's included in what they've asked for and whether, in fairness to all parties, including the government, more should be included.

Now, you're absolutely right. It never happened before, well, almost never happened before realtime reporting because I've been asked for readbacks. And the standard instruction that we give is, Ladies and gentlemen, there is no transcript available. The court reporter has made a record of proceedings through stenographic notes, etc., etc., but there is no transcript. And that was usually the end of it.

But we're in this brave new world where we now have transcripts. And as I say, there is some case law out there that if a judge just says, No, you can't have them, that becomes an issue on appeal.

So I'm sorry to cut you off. But you're making a very good point. This is going to involve making sure everybody has a copy of transcript, finding out from the jury, if we can, what in

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the testimony of these two witnesses they're particularly interested in, and then giving counsel an opportunity to review the transcript to decide what additional testimony, in fairness, should be read to the jury.

And again, the transcripts never go into the jury room. We're talking about reading, we're talking about reading testimony in the courtroom. Go ahead.

MR. HARDING: The government agrees with the Court on this. But I guess all I would add is that the Court do whatever it can to discourage the jury from wanting the transcripts without precluding them altogether, in deference to these cases that Your Honor has mentioned.

THE COURT: That's what I've always done.

MR. HARDING: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. So I think, Ms. Rhodes, you make quite salient points. The Court still thinks it had a good idea. But you all knew that.

So I think, first of all, we have completed menus, Ms. Arrington? Okay. So it's been faxed. Great. All right. So what I propose to do then is to bring the jury out and thank them for their notes, indicate that lunch is expected to arrive by one p.m., and we regret the delay in that.

And as to the specific answer, yeah, I'm going to confer with Ms. Zajac in a moment. But the answer to the deadlock, of course, is yes, you can proceed to consider any

1 count in the indictment as to any defendant in any order you 2 wish. And I'm going to give the no answer to the second 3 question. Let's go off the record for one moment. 4 5 (Pause in Proceedings.) 6 THE COURT: All right. I have conferred with Ms. 7 Zajac. And I'm advised that all of you already have hard copies 8 of the testimony, all of the testimony of Mr. Montgomery and Ms. 9 Wyche. She has provided me -- is that not right, Mr. Martin? 10 MR. MARTIN: I don't have Wyche, Your Honor. I don't 11 think I do. Somebody might have it, but we don't. 12 THE COURT: I see. I see. So not all counsel have a 13 copy. 14 MS. RHODES: I have the Wyche. I thought I had 15 circulated it by PDF, but perhaps not. I can do that this 16 afternoon. 17 THE COURT: Great. So Ms. Rhodes has Wyche and 18 everybody has Montgomery? 19 MR. COBURN: We have Montgomery. 2.0 THE COURT: Everybody has Montgomery. And you have all 2.1 of Montgomery and all of Wyche. 22 MS. RHODES: Yes. 23 THE COURT: Ms. Zajac tells me that Ms. Wyche was 24 basically a full day and that Mr. Montgomery was three half days. 25 MR. MARTIN: A day and a half.

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THE COURT: Yeah. A total of a day and a half. So I'm going to tell the jury that we understand they would like to hear the testimony of those two witnesses. I'm going to tell them that the procedure that we will have to follow, if that's what they want, is that the testimony will have to be read in open court, and that before we're able to do so, counsel must have an opportunity to review the transcript to determine what portions, in addition to any portion that the jury wants to hear, must be read as well.

So we'll give them an opportunity over lunch to think about that and to provide us with, if they can, a more discrete identification of what portion of the testimony they are interested in. It may well be that they're stuck on one narrow assertion on direct or cross, that it may well be the answer to one or two questions.

On the other hand, insofar as the foreman has asked for the afternoon of a witness' testimony, suggests that they may be not so sure of exactly what they're looking for. Afternoon of William Montgomery on October 7th and from Natasha Wyche on October 1st. So let's see what they give us back by way of further explication of what they're looking for.

Okay. Let's have the jury, please.

Ms. Zajac has an important appointment, personal matter this afternoon, so she won't be with us, but we'll have another court reporter this afternoon. But I've said to her that I will

not have her do any reading, assuming we get to the point of reading this afternoon.

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The jury will also want to take an outdoors break. And think I'll invite them to do that from 1:30, I'll say 145 to 2 p.m. on the assumption that they'd want it after lunch.

(Jury enters the courtroom at 12:28 p.m.)

THE COURT: Members of the jury, good afternoon. As you'll recall, I told you that during your deliberations when we received notes from you we will endeavor to respond to you whenever possible in writing, but that there may be occasions when we will need to convene here in the courtroom in order to respond to some of your notes. And this is one of those occasions. I regret the delay in getting back to you. But we've all reassembled.

First of all, let me say that there was a delay in faxing over your luncheon selections. And so we anticipate that lunch will be here at 1:00, approximately 30 minutes from now.

Number two, I'm sure that you'll want to take an outdoors break today and so I'm going to announce now that you may take an outdoors break from 1:45 until 2 p.m. I'm assuming that you'd prefer to have the outdoors break after lunch rather than before.

Now, with respect to the notes you've sent out, we're going to handle these one at a time. The first note read as follows: The jury is deadlocked on two counts as they relate to

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an individual defendant. Both sides' reasoned views at this point are firm. Can we proceed past these counts in reaching our verdict?

And the answer to that inquiry, of course, is, as I told you during my instructions, and as indeed, as you will find in my instruction, actually, this is not in my instructions. But what I told you was that although the verdict sheet is put together in numerical order from Count 1 through Count 19, you are absolutely free to consider any verdict, any count of the indictment and reach a verdict as to any count or any defendant in any order you choose, whatever you find that will most facilitate your ability to deliberate a verdict.

So you should feel free to consider any and all counts in any order as to any defendant that you find most useful to your process.

The last note you sent out -- I'll skip the second note for now and come back to that in a moment -- you asked the following question: Can a defendant be implicated and found guilty for the drug quantities that were possessed and distributed by a conspiracy prior to his entry? The answer to that question is that, in the context of this case, the answer is no. A defendant can only be responsible for, because he can only reasonably foresee if you so find, drug quantities and types that were involved in a conspiracy after he became a member of the conspiracy, not before he became a member of the conspiracy.

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Finally, your note reads as follows: Can the jury review testimony of Natasha Wyche from October 1 and William Montgomery's testimony, afternoon of October 7, 2008? In fact, ladies and gentlemen, although it's not the customary practice, in this case Ms. Zajac, our diligent court reporter, has been able to prepare transcripts of the testimony of a number of witnesses, including Ms. Wyche and Mr. Montgomery. Ms. Wyche, we believe, was on the stand for a full day of direct and cross examination. Mr. Montgomery, you will recall, I'll sure, was on the stand for a very long time. And indeed, you will recall that we interrupted Mr. Montgomery's testimony probably twice, such that Mr. Montgomery was on the stand over what we believe were three afternoons, for a total of a day and a half of testimony on direct and cross examination.

Now, in order to accommodate your request, you need to understand a number of things. First of all, transcripts of witness testimony given at trial, unlike a couple of the transcripts that we sent in to you as exhibits, transcripts of witnesses testifying at trial are never marked as exhibits. So they will not be available to you in the jury room at any time.

If you wish to come back into the courtroom to listen to a reading of any witness, Mr. Montgomery or Ms. Wyche's testimony, that can be arranged. But there are a number of preliminary steps that must be taken before that's possible.

First and foremost, although you may have in mind a

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more narrow time period or subject matter of testimony with respect to Ms. Wyche or Mr. Montgomery, what counsel are entitled and, indeed, required to do before we read any testimony to you is they are entitled to go through the transcripts of the witness' testimony in their entirety so as not to create the wrong impression.

That is to say, any lawyer for any defendant and any, and counsel for the government, would be entitled, once we determine, if we can, what particular portion of a witness' testimony you might be interested in, counsel are entitled to review the transcript for the purpose of determining whether any additional portion of that witness' testimony should in fairness and completeness be read to you.

This is not because we don't trust you or we want to give you more than you want. But the testimony of a witness given at trial, particularly one that extends for a full day or day and a half, is often broken up into pieces. There are things that are said on direct examination that might be elaborated upon or modified somewhat on cross examination. And, of course, as you well know in this case, we've had not just the direct testimony of those two witnesses under questioning by the government counsel, but we've had cross examination by four other attorneys, each representing a defendant in this case.

So this would be an undertaking that, again, the Court will certainly require us to go through if, in fairness to you

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and to enable your ability to fairly and impartially reach a verdict in this case, and if your notes don't adequately provide the information, and your recollections, together with your notes, don't provide sufficient information as to what a particular witness might have said that you're interested in, then we will go through this exercise.

But it's not simply a matter, and I just wanted to make sure you understood, it's not simply a matter of printing out a transcript and sending it in to you. Again, to reiterate, the transcript of witness testimony during the trial is never sent in to the jury room. You will have to rely on your recollection and any notes you may have made in determining what the witness said. If that effort of relying on your recollection and any notes you may have made, together with any exhibits that you have in the jury room, are not sufficient to enable you to make a determination as to what a witness said, then we will go through the process of trying to identify what portion or portions of the witness' testimony in fairness should be read back to you.

The process that we would use is, I will probably engage my law clerks to read the testimony as best they can. And that, again, would require us to take some time to make sure that portions of the testimony that needed to be read to you could be read to you and portions of the testimony that you need not hear or should not hear are not read to you.

So I give you all this information so that you are

better able to, when you reassemble in a minute, make an
assessment of where you are and how you'd like to proceed.

I'm going to assume that you'd like to break, today
being Friday, perhaps a little bit earlier than you normally

being Friday, perhaps a little bit earlier than you normally would. I'm thinking, it's up to you, but I'm thinking probably around 3:00 or so you will be excused today.

But in the meantime, hopefully lunch is going to be here in 15 or 20 minutes. And you can take your break at 1:45 until 2 p.m.

Please consider these instructions that I've given you here in the courtroom today, together with all of my instructions, in going about your important job of deliberating a verdict in this case. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

The jury's excused to resume its deliberations.

(Jury exits the courtroom at 12:40 p.m.)

THE COURT: First of all, before I hear from counsel, Ms. Arrington, do you have any idea what that juror was doing when he was motioning to you?

THE CLERK: No.

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THE COURT: I don't know if you observed it, but Juror Number 11?

MR. MARTIN: Yes.

THE COURT: Yes. Juror number, was it 11 or -- yeah,

Juror Number 11 was making a hand motion towards Ms. Arrington.

I don't know what it means. And Ms. Arrington doesn't know what

1 it means. And maybe we'll get a note in a moment. 2 Okay. First of all, I'll go down the line. 3 exception or objection or request for supplemental instructions beyond what I've already done, Mr. Coburn? 4 5 MR. COBURN: No, Your Honor. Thank you. 6 THE COURT: All right. MR. MARTIN: No, Your Honor. 7 MR. CROWE: No, Your Honor. 8 9 THE COURT: Ms. Rhodes? MS. RHODES: Just, it's a small point, Your Honor, and 10 11 I guess they'll clarify it if they need clarification. But I 12 have a feeling that on number one they may have felt that the, 13 what the Court said about you don't have to go in order does not 14 give them permission to do what they were asking. In other 15 words, I'm not sure they were asking, can we, about order. I 16 think they were saying, can we leave it deadlocked and --17 THE COURT: And that's the question I'm not, I didn't 18 intend to answer. You're right. That's part of the question and I did not intend to answer that. I'm not going to answer that 19 2.0 until I give a modified Allen charge. 2.1 MS. RHODES: Okay. I understand. 22 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Harding? 23 MR. HARDING: Well, I understand now. I thought you

THE COURT: Oh, no. No. I won't give a modified Allen

were going to give the modified Allen charge right away.

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1 charge until they send out a note that says something on the 2 order of, we've reached a verdict on all but two counts and we're 3 deadlocked on two. Then I will give the modified Allen charge. MR. HARDING: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor. 4 5 THE COURT: Mr. Coburn? 6 MR. COBURN: Your Honor, just a real quick housekeeping 7 issue. I assume Your Honor probably saw that tedious e-mail I 8 circulated about my own scheduling issues. I really apologize 9 for that. And I just wanted to clarify one thing, which is 10 probably --11 THE COURT: By the way, I never did talk to Judge 12 Nichols. He talked to my staff and I got an e-mail, and I 13 thought everything was in good, good shape. 14 MR. COBURN: Well, actually, it worked out great, Your 15 Honor. They stetted the case. 16 THE COURT: Maybe you should stay away more often. 17 MR. COBURN: That's absolutely true. This is probably 18 already -- just so clear it's probably silly of me even to raise it. But in terms of Tuesday, the 9th, I'm just assuming --19 2.0 THE COURT: Please don't talk about Tuesday. 2.1 MR. COBURN: I'm really jinxing it by even raising it 22 right now. THE COURT: Right. You have to go back to West 23 24 Virginia?

MR. COBURN: Mr. Kurland's in Nevada that day. And I'm

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just assuming it's not an acceptable situation for him to be in Nevada and for me to be in Wheeling, West Virginia. We'll work it out another way.

THE COURT: Okay. Don't change your flight plans until Monday. I'm sorry, Mr. Coburn. I had a very important matter that I was to attend to.

MR. COBURN: Not at all. That's all.

THE COURT: Duty calls. Anybody else have anything?
Mr. Kurland?

MR. KURLAND: Judge, I've got a personal matter that I have to leave at two. Can I be excused for the afternoon?

THE COURT: Yes. Absolutely. Yes. I just want to sit here for you a few minutes and see if, if we hear anything.

By the way, the he record will reflect, although I'm sure it does, that when we gathered yesterday afternoon to dismiss the jury all defendants, including Mr. Harris, were present. And of course Mr. Harris has been in the courtroom throughout the proceedings today. It's good to have Mr. Harris back with us.

By the way, Mr. Martin, Mr. Flannery, I do intend to simply enter a brief order of explanation as to why Mr. Harris was excluded from the courtroom during the closing argument of counsel. But of course, your objection to the Court's decision in that regard is preserved on the record.

MR. MARTIN: Can we see the order before you enter it,

Your Honor? Just to have some input, perhaps? Might not matter.

You want change your mind, I don't think. I say that again

without fear of upsetting you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You won't. Of course. Of course. No, you can certainly -- well, in fact, why don't I invite you to just file something before I enter the order?

MR. MARTIN: That's fine, Your Honor.

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THE COURT: So I won't enter the order until you --

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: -- just note in the record your written objection.

Okay. Well, I think they're waiting for lunch. So why don't we stand in recess. I would ask counsel to not wander off too far. If you could, you know, stay at least 30 minutes, within 30 minutes of the courthouse. I didn't see any juror express dissatisfaction with being dismissed around 3:00. So I would expect that, if nothing else happens before then, they'll be happy to depart around three.

I'm going to go up and print out a copy of the Wyche and Montgomery testimony just that I'll have it in the event that we should get to that point today.

And I suggest, counsel -- you probably don't have your copies with you.

MR. COBURN: No.

THE COURT: Do you have your copy, Ms. Rhodes?

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                 MS. RHODES: No.
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                 THE COURT: Are they here in Baltimore or --
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                 MR. MARTIN: We have ours, Your Honor.
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                 THE COURT: You have?
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                 MR. MARTIN: Yes, sir.
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                 THE COURT: Okay. So --
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                 MS. RHODES: I have it on my computer, though. I can
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       look at the section.
 9
                 THE COURT: All right. Well, just so we're clear, and
10
       I guess I left it somewhat ambiguous with the jury, and
11
       intentionally so, I don't expect, I don't intend further to
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       address this issue unless and until I hear further from the jury.
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       I think my comments put the ball back in their court.
14
                 And so as we stand now, there's not going to be any
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       reading of testimony. They're going to have to tell us they
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       really meant it. Okay?
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                 All right. We're in recess.
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                 (Recess at 12:48 p.m.)
19
                 (Further proceedings today covered by Gail Simpkins,
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       Court Reporter.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Mary M. Zajac, do hereby certify that I recorded stenographically the proceedings in the matter of USA v. Willie Mitchell, et al., Case Number(s) AMD-04-029, on December 5, 2008.

I further certify that the foregoing pages constitute the official transcript of proceedings as transcribed by me to the within matter in a complete and accurate manner.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Mary M. Zajac, Official Court Reporter

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